

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1728

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, EAIR, PROG, TU, GR
SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN AIR SPACE ISSUE: TURKISH POSITION

REF: (A) ATHENS 2722, (B) ANKARA 2156, (C) ATHENS 2721

1. THE TURKISH DELEGATION AT NATO HAS CIRCULATED TO ALL ALLIANCE MEMBERS EXCEPT GREECE A NOTE PURPORTING TO GIVE THE LATEST SITUATION ON THE TURKISH-GREEK NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AEGEAN AIR SPACE ISSUE. AFTER ENUMERATING THE MAIN POINTS OF THE RECENT GREEK PROPOSALS AS SEEN FROM ANKARA, THE TURKISH NOTE ARGUES THAT GREECE CONSIDERS THE AEGEAN AIR SPACE TO BE ITS OWN AND WANTS TURKEY TO AFFIRM THIS CLAIM BY ACCEPTING GREECE'S UNILATERAL DECISIONS.

2. THE NOTE CLAIMS THAT IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT POLITICAL CLIMATE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, TURKEY HAS TAKEN A PRAGMATIC VIEW DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, "LEAVING ASIDE QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE AND TRYING TO REDUCE TENSION IN THE AREA AND AIMING TO REACH PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS
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WHICH WOULD MEET THE NEEDS OF BOTH SIDES". IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT, THE NOTE STATES, THAT TURKEY HAS PREPARED COUNTER-PROPOSALS AND HAS "RENOUNCED THE IDEA OF AN IDENTIFICATION REGION". ACCORDING TO THE TURKISH NOTE, THE COUNTER-PROPOSALS CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: BEGIN TEXT:

--EQUAL AND JOINT USE OF AEGEAN INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE;

--THE REDUCTION OF LIMNI AIR CONTROL REGION IN
CONFORMITY WITH THE WIDTH OF TERRITORIAL WATERS;

--THE JOINT ESTABLISHMENT OF AIR CORRIDORS;

--THE REMOVAL OF NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON AIR SAFETY
AND TRAFFIC, OF PERMANENT GREEK TRAINING REGIONS;

--THE CONFIRMATION, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE 1944
CHICAGO CONVENTION, OF GREEK AIRSPACE TO BE SIX MILES
IN LINE WITH THE WIDTH OF TERRITORIAL WATERS;

--USE BY AIRPLANES OF BOTH COUNTRIES FLYING IN
AEGEAN INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE OF IFF/SIF INSTRUMENTS
IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES;

--THE EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILITARY MANEUVERS
BY SIX-MONTHLY NOTAMS;

--COOPERATION IN THE SELECTION OF TRAINING AREAS
AS OF TIME AND PLACE;

--EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON CIVILIAN REGULAR AND
CHARTER FLIGHTS;

--COOPERATION CONCERNING CIVILIAN FLIGHTS;
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--THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD
MEET TWICE A YEAR AND OVERSEE THE APPLICATION OF THE
ARRANGEMENT REACHED AND DEAL WITH SUBJECTS WHICH CIVIL-
LIAN AVIATION AUTHORITIES WOULD WANT. END TEXT.

3. FULL TEXT OF TURKISH NOTE BEING FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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